

Who were the pair, and what did it all mean? Was this the same kind-hearted Chestnut Warbler that we had watched before, or is there a peculiar strain of human kindness in the blood of the Chestnut family? If he was the same bird, he certainly deserves a position at the head of an orphanage, for perhaps his combination with 'fresh air' work is a bit of Warbler wisdom that might be imitated.—FLORENCE A. MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, Lewis County, New York.*

Capture of a Second Specimen of the Hooded Warbler in Massachusetts.—Some time ago my friend, Mr. Wilmot W. Brown, Jr., of this city, showed me, among other interesting birds in his collection, a specimen of the Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*) taken at Provincetown, Mass., by Mr. Harry C. Whorf of Winthrop. I have since obtained full particulars of the capture from Mr. Whorf, who kindly permits me to write this note. The bird was an adult male in high plumage, and was shot June 25, 1888, while busily catching insects in a thicket of scrub oaks and bushes. From the date of capture it would seem probable that the Warbler was breeding in the vicinity; but Mr. Whorf, who watched it for some time before shooting, saw nothing in its behavior to indicate that such was the case, the bird showing no signs of anxiety at his presence, nor any of the actions characteristic of a bird having a nest or young near by. There is, I believe, but one previous record of the occurrence of *Sylvania mitrata* in Massachusetts, that of a specimen taken in Brookline, June 25, 1879, as noted by Mr. Ruthven Deane (*Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. V, 1880, p. 117*).—FRANK H. HITCHCOCK, *Somerville, Mass.*

Interesting Nesting Site of a Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*)—Instead of being in "thick, coniferous woods," I found this nest in an upturned beech root in an open part of our deciduous woods. The tree had lodged after falling to an angle of about forty-five degrees, and the nest was stowed away in the earth among the rootlets. The beech was just off from an unused wood road that had grown up to jewel-weed (*Impatiens pallida*); and ferns filled the space up to the very edge of the gap from which the tree turned back, and formed a pretty fringe on top of the root. The May rains had turned the cavity beneath into a clear pool of water, and filled the swampy land back of the tree with similar pools where Red-eyed Vireos and Scarlet Tanagers came to bathe.—FLORENCE A. MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, Lewis County, New York.*

The Hudsonian Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*) in Vermont and Massachusetts.—While passing through a large larch swamp in Sutton, Vt., Aug. 16, 1889, I saw three or four Hudsonian Chickadees in company with a number of common Chickadees. A specimen shot proved to be a bird of the year. I do not remember to have seen any previous record of this species in the State of Vermont. From the date and from the nature of the locality it is probable that the birds bred there.

On October 18, 1889, I found two individuals of this species in a white

pine grove in Arlington, Mass. These also were among a flock of common Chickadees. The following day I shot one of them. The survivor remained in the same grove as late as the 22d. On the 17th of November of the same year I discovered another in a small grove composed of white pines, pitch pines and red cedars in Waverly, Mass. This bird remained in the same wood throughout the following winter. I saw it at frequent intervals up to April 5, 1890, when it disappeared together with a large flock of the common species—its associates throughout the winter. Very likely the Hudsonian came from the north with the Blackcaps in the autumn and returned with them in the spring (*cf.* Allen, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., II, 262). During its sojourn with us it was much less active and noisy than its Black-capped cousins and stuck more closely to the *evergreen* trees. While the Blackcaps made daily foraging excursions extending a quarter of a mile or more beyond the limits of the grove, the Hudsonian remained behind, silently awaiting their return. The peculiar tone of its voice affected even its simple *chip*, so that, after long acquaintance, I could trace the bird merely by this simple clue.

During a short trip with Mr. William Brewster to Mt. Graylock, Berkshire Co., Mass., Dec. 14-20, 1889, we found the Hudsonian Titmouse on four several days—three or four specimens in second-growth pasture spruces in the Notch (alt. 1600 ft.), and a flock, estimated at six to ten, in the 'Mountain Pasture' (alt. 2200 ft.).

Assuming that the Waverly bird was not the survivor of the pair seen in Arlington (the two localities are three and a half miles asunder), it makes the ninth, I believe, recorded from eastern Massachusetts. At least two unrecorded specimens have been killed in this neighborhood—one by Mr. S. F. Denton in Wellesley, Oct. 30, 1880, and one by Mr. Brewster in Belmont, Dec. 31, 1884. It has also been taken in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Instead of regarding this species as *accidental* in Massachusetts, as Mr. Allen does in his list of the birds of the State, I believe it to be a rare (perhaps irregular) bird of passage in the eastern part of the State, while probably considerable numbers descend in autumn along the spruce belt of the Green Mountains into northern Berkshire. That it *breeds* on Mt. Graylock I think improbable, as it was not found there in the summer by either Mr. Brewster or myself during several weeks spent in exploring the mountains in the years 1883, 1888, and 1889.—WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

Myadestes townsendii in Nebraska.—In looking over a small collection of mounted birds today (the property of Mr. L. Sessions, of Norfolk, Nebraska) I found a specimen of *Myadestes townsendii* which Mr. Sessions assures me he took in that vicinity in winter some years ago. Unless I am mistaken, this is rather out of its usual habitat and is worthy of record.—GEO. L. TOPPAN, *Chicago, Ill.*

The Long-billed Marsh Wren, Maryland Yellow-throat, Nashville Warbler and Great Blue Heron in Eastern Massachusetts in Winter. — On November 1, 1889, I found two Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus*